

**City of Selah
Council Minutes**

September 27, 2005

Regular Meeting
Selah Council Chambers
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Brian Harris, Keith Larson, Pete McNew, Allen Schmid, Herb Schmidt, Scott Smeback

Members Excused: Jerry Kobes

Staff Present: Bob Noe, City Attorney; Rick Gutierrez, Police Chief; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Jeff Hagler, Parks & Recreation Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman McNew led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Chris Morris led the group in prayer.

D. Agenda Changes

Mayor Jones announced the addition of an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

E. Public Appearances

Police Chief Rick Gutierrez introduced Sergeant Rick Hayes who presented Life-Saving awards to Officers Eric Steen, Bret Reeves and Tony Valencia who responded to a call from a friend of a man who was attempting suicide. He read a statement:

In the evening hours of June 23, 2005, Officers Reeves, Steen and Valencia were sent to a Selah address in reference to a suicidal subject. The suicidal subject's friend called and advised that the subject was locked in the garage of his residence with a car and motorcycle running. The friend advised that it appeared that the subject was unconscious.

When the officers arrived at the location, they could hear an engine revving in the garage. All doors and windows were checked and were found to be locked. According to the friend, nobody has keys to the house.

The Selah Officers could see into the garage and they could see that the subject was sitting in a car and that there was a sport motorcycle running at a high rev parked next to it. The subject appeared to be either asleep or unconscious. They also noticed a heavy smoke or haze in the air of the inside of the garage.

Officer Steen then used his department ASP to break a window out of the side garage door to gain entry into the home. The subject then ran from the garage into living portion of the house. The subject was located upstairs in the house and taken by the Officers outside into the fresh air. Fire Department and Ambulance personnel then administered aid to the subject.

Fire Chief Davis used a carbon monoxide detector / meter to check the levels of carbon monoxide in both the house and garage. The level in the house was found to be at a hazardous level and the levels in the garage were at "Lethal" levels. (More than 600 parts per million) The levels in the house and garage were high enough that Chief Davis told the Officers that they needed to change their uniforms immediately and that the house needed to be deemed "Temporarily Inhabitable". Selah Code Officer Gawlik was summoned to the scene and the house secured and deemed Temporarily Uninhabitable".

I am extremely proud of the actions of these Selah Officers. I feel that they put their own lives and safety at risk by entering the house to locate this subject and remove him. Not one of these officers hesitated to enter the premises to preserve the life of this subject. I am sure that the outcome of this incident would not have been as favorable had they not taken the action they did.

After speaking with Police Chief Gutierrez and Fire Chief Davis, it was agreed that these three officers have earned the Selah Police Department's Life Saving Award.

It is with great pride that MPO's Reeves, Steen and Valencia are awarded the Selah Police Department's Life Saving Award this 27th day of September, 2005.

He presented each officer with a copy of the letter and a certificate of recognition of exemplary conduct, and Chief Gutierrez presented each with a medal. The Council, staff and audience rose to congratulate the officers. The Mayor recognized Officer Steen's family.

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral
2. Written
 - a. Yakima Transit August Report

Mayor Jones noted he is impressed with the Yakima Transit figures.

H. Proclamations/Announcements

1. Proclamation National Fire Prevention Week

Mayor Jones read the Proclamation for National Fire Prevention Week. October 9-15, 2005, and presented the Proclamation to Fire Chief Jerry Davis, who noted candles have caused structure fires and a fatality within the Selah Fire District.

I. Consent Agenda

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting September 13, 2005
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll: Claims check nos. 46034 – 46092 for a total of \$71,622.59 and Payroll check nos. 56957 – 57030 for a total of \$105,119.38.

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Herb Schmidt moved and Councilman Allen Schmid seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. By voice vote, motions carried unanimously.

Councilman Schmid asked Chief Davis if the classes in Edith House uses candles.

Chief Davis responded that they use matches, lighters and candles in their presentations.

J. Public Hearings

K. New Business

1. Decision on Support for the Joint Partnership Application to DOE in Regard to Regional Stormwater Policy Group

Councilman Allen Schmid addressed item K-1, noting Mr. Pooler brought up a lot of interesting points in the Study Session. He said there are two things to weigh. He noted we all can probably see some benefits of joining with a regional group, if there is enough flexibility for each entity to stress what each believes is important. He used the example of those things a city might already have in place, for Selah it is a street sweeping plan (and equipment) and a process for cleaning out catch basins that would be included in our plan. He noted the possibility a regional group would cost more, so we'd need to look at it from a fiscal point of view. He stated he is not sure that we need to go back to the beginning since we're already well into our plan. He said that it is up to the Council to decide how best to proceed.

Councilman Scott Smeback asked what they are looking for from us today. Councilman McNew clarified that they want a decision to participate or not to participate.

Councilman Larson asked if participation would mean we would lose some control.

Mayor Jones noted Selah would have one member.

Councilman Schmid stated we would become one vote on the policy group who will decide by consensus; we would have two representatives and a staff person at the table but only one vote.

Councilman Herb Schmidt stated it would appear that we are ahead by doing it on an individual basis and proceeding with our \$75,000 grant. He stated that we should be able to handle additional problems should they arrive.

Councilman Pete McNew said he felt torn because multi-city groups are ineffective, but is also concerned that requirements might become so fragmented that we'd create a maze of rules for contractors.

Mayor Jones stated that during his administration, one of our primary goals has been the environment. He stated we fought for Salmon Recovery and initiated a street sweeping program. We've been ahead of the curve all the way along. He stated if we are going to belong to something, we need to know up front how much we are going to be charged. We already know for \$75,000 we can do what we need to do. He concluded that while we want to be good neighbors, we also want to remain in charge of our own destiny.

Councilman McNew moved that the City of Selah participate in the Joint Partnership application to Department of Ecology in regard to Regional Stormwater Policy Group.

Councilman Larson asked if this is a change of focus.

Councilman Schmid stated if we did participate, it would just be another \$75,000 in the pool. There was additional clarification of the motion.

Councilman Larson seconded the motion.

Councilman Schmidt asked for additional clarification, and Councilman McNew said he would not support his own motion.

Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – no; Councilman Schmid – no; Councilman Schmidt – no; Councilman McNew – no; Councilman Larson – no; Councilman Harris – no. Motion was unanimously defeated.

Councilman Schmid stated that County Commissioner Mike Leita will be notified of this decision.

Councilman Smeback stated that there was not enough time to fully consider this issue because they wanted an immediate decision.

Councilman McNew noted no one from the proposed group was here to promote our involvement.

Councilman Allen Schmid stated we have already worked progressed, and we can now come into compliance with the Eastern Washington Stormwater Plan.

Mayor Jones stated it is the difference between being proactive or reactive.

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

1. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign a Street Light Contract with Pacific Power for Street Lights on North Park Drive

Public Works Director Joe Henne addressed the resolution accepting the contract for streetlights on North Park Drive and for purchase of metal poles. He stated this is the last piece of work on that street.

Councilman McNew excused himself, abstaining from discussion and the vote on this item because of a conflict of interest.

Councilman Schmid moved approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign a Street Light Contract with Pacific Power for Street Lights on North Park Drive. Councilman Schmidt seconded. Roll was called: Councilman Smeback – yes; Councilman Schmid – yes; Councilman Schmidt – yes; Councilman McNew – abstain; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Harris – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

N. Ordinances

O. Communications

1. Oral

P. Reports/Announcements

1. Mayor
2. Council Members
3. Boards
4. Departmental

Councilman Larson reported his father, Vern Larson, has started work on the north side of the Civic Center. He stated the renovation does not include rewiring in the kitchen.

Councilman Harris stated it is nice to see Selah police officers get an award today. He said Selah does an awesome job.

Councilman Schmid stated the Development Committee will meet Monday at 10:00.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Hagler pointed out the skate park concept drawing and passed around a schematic. He stated the first four elements are coming on Friday. He reported that last weekend skate boarders raised \$2,000 profit at their taco feed. He announced the Walk Across Washington passed around brochures. He also passed out a flyer for a local church's fund-raising activities for Katrina.

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski reported we had State Auditors with us for about two weeks at a cost of \$18,000. He stated we have not heard results yet, but will schedule an exit conference with the Finance Committee, Mayor and City Supervisor. He stated the 2006 budget process is under way.

Public Works Director Joe Henne reported the light poles are down at Carlon Park and Public Works has ordered materials. He stated they plan to re-roof the Civic Center.

Mayor Jones reported a Public Hearing on the gas tax initiative (I-912) will be held October 17th at the Yakima Convention Center. He stated we would lose \$17M if that is passed. He declared a five minute recess before the Executive Session.

Q. Executive Session

The Council moved into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 4:49pm. They moved out back into regular session at 4:54pm.

R. Adjournment

Council Member Schmidt moved and Council Member McNew seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:54pm.

Robert L. Jones, Mayor

(excused)

Gerald Kobes, Council Member

Keith Larson, Council Member

Peter McNew, Council Member

Brian Harris, Council Member

Herb Schmidt, Council Member

Scott Smeback, Council Member

Allen Schmid, Council Member

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer